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ADDRESS

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JULIEN T. ^{tappen} DAVIES

PRIVATE IN COMPANY A, 22ND REGT., N. G. N. Y., 1863

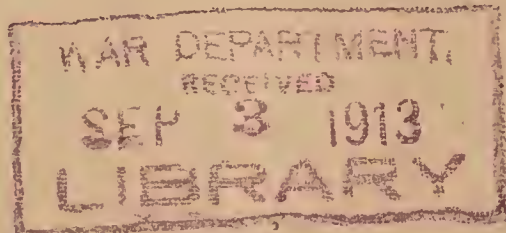
AT THE

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JAMES MONROE POST NO. 607

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK G. A. R.

MAY 28, 1913



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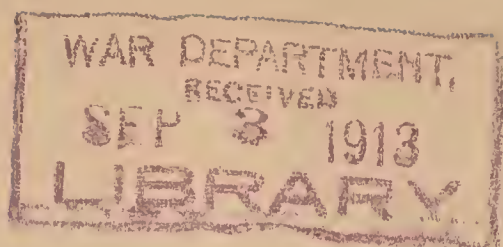
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APR 1 1916





CITIZEN SOLDIERSHIP.

The services held tonight are in memory of members of the Twenty-second Regiment, National Guard of the State of New York, who, after active service in the War of the Rebellion, became members of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the James Monroe Post.

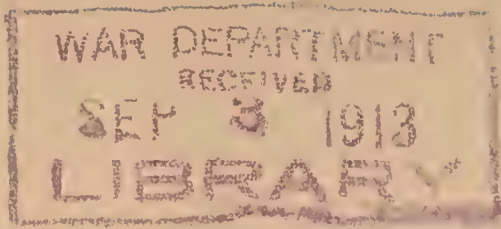
The few of us who survive meet here with you who are connected with and interested in that regiment, in sorrow that our friends have passed away; in gladness that the opportunity was afforded them to show the qualities of citizen soldiery in the defence of their country. That we direct our attention to them as the principal subject of our thoughts, does not involve any lack of appreciation of the worth and indispensable character of the services of the professional soldier. Indeed, we may well pause a moment to yield to the man who devotes his life to the military service of his country, and who ever stands ready at a moment's notice to take the field, fully equipped by study, by drill and by discipline, at the moment of active hostilities, a tribute which, we must regret to say, is not as freely given by our people as its subject deserves.

The clergyman, in pursuance of his sacred calling, abandons all ambitious hopes of worldly advancement and the accumulation of wealth. His life, in the present day of the needs and expense of comfortable living, involves deprivation and even privation, not only to himself, but to those

who feel it even more keenly—his wife and daughters. Is the case of the professional soldier in the United States Army any better? Compare the compensation not only of the privates but of the officers of our army with the incomes enjoyed by those holding equally responsible positions in other departments of human labor, and we find that the rewards of the soldier approach far more nearly those of the clergyman than those of any other class of the community. All honor, then, to him who stands as the ever-ready guardian of our national honor and our domestic peace, who turns his back upon the allurements and emoluments of business and professional life, and who for himself and his family accepts the sacrifices and the inadequate pecuniary rewards of the professional soldier.

But today our minds are principally upon those who, while pursuing the ordinary avocations of our great City, nevertheless, at the call of their country in time of need, left their homes, their families and their labor, and willingly exposed their health and their lives to stem the tide of invasion.

It is but natural, in considering a subject generally, to be most impressed and to speak more freely from one's personal experience. The Twenty-second Regiment, when it went to the front in June, 1863, summoned in haste to do its part in resisting the invasion of Pennsylvania, was composed of men who had been accustomed to comfortable methods of living. There was probably not a man in the regiment who before that campaign had ever known what it was to be hungry and to be absolutely unable to get something to eat, to be wet to the skin, and to be unable to obtain fire and a change of clothes, and to be



obliged to sleep night after night on the bare ground without shelter.

Without the slightest suggestion that such services are to be compared in point of value or merit with those of the men who for four years endured these privations, it is at least something that may be said tonight, that the men of the Twenty-second Regiment endured such conditions during this campaign willingly and cheerfully and in a spirit of buoyant enjoyment that can only be explained by the fact, that the regiment was animated by the true soldierly spirit of being willing to suffer for the sake of a cause without consideration of the extent of the sacrifice. We are justified in saying of those men, not only with respect to this campaign, but also with respect to the Harper's Ferry campaign of 1862, which endured for more than three months, that the Twenty-second Regiment in the time of need gave all that was asked of it, and did all that was required of it.

In the Summer of 1863 the campaign was made without tents, carrying with us nothing in the way of extra clothing but overcoats and rubber blankets. We had access to our knapsacks for a change of clothing but four times during the campaign, and then only for an hour or two at a time, and the regiment drew six days' rations during the thirty days of active service. What else we had to eat, we bought, begged, borrowed or stole; and I trust I am not reflecting upon the honor of the regiment when I admit, that the pangs of hunger impelled us to use any of these means that sufficed to satisfy and fill the aching void within.

Let me make a personal confession, which I would not dare to state were I not protected by

the Statute of Limitations. The night after our little affair at Sporting Hill, as I lay upon the ground, about midnight, I was awakened by being shaken by the shoulder. I found standing over me an old friend, the captain of a company in a New York regiment that was brigaded with us and who had at one time been my Sunday School teacher. He cautioned me to be silent and to follow him. He led me a little distance away from the camp to a house that stood somewhat by itself and brought me to a cellar window, and then in a whisper he confided to me that he had been trying to get into that cellar, as he thought very likely there might be some hams there, but that finding himself too corpulent to pass through the window, he had bethought himself of my slender proportions, and he suggested that I climb into the cellar and pass out to him anything edible that I found therein. I blush to say that I yielded to this temptation, when placed before me by a man whom I had learned to regard as a guide in morality, and especially when backed by my own unappeased appetite after a fast of about twenty-four hours. I abstracted from that cellar two hams, which we conveyed to the camp and shared with a chosen few.

I have always trusted that the Recording Angel, as he wrote down the story of this burglary, treated us as kindly as he did the renowned Uncle Toby, who swore a mighty oath at hearing of a widow's distress. It is written that as the Recording Angel was forced to enter this sin upon dear old Uncle Toby's debit balance in the great ledger that will be opened at Judgment Day, he dropped a tear and obliterated the record as he made it. May it be hoped that the half-starved citizen soldiers were treated with equal kindness

by the great Archangel, and that on the last day we will not find posted up against us the story of the stolen hams in Pennsylvania, in the campaign of the Twenty-second Regiment in 1863.

It was intended that we should be used to cut off the retreat of Lee's veterans as they moved south after the Battle of Gettysburg. We were pushed forward as rapidly as was possible, but we never succeeded in intercepting those veterans, although once we were only a few hours behind them, and General Robert E. Lee himself had been in a house which my company reached twenty-four hours after he had left it. Sometimes we would say to each other, what would happen to us if we chanced to catch up with those veterans. Heaven alone knows! And yet I cannot recall that any man evidenced the slightest fear of the consequences, that his intelligence must have told him would have happened to a body of not too thoroughly drilled, if very enthusiastic, National Guardsmen, had they encountered in their first serious musketry fight the trained and seasoned troops of the Confederate Army.

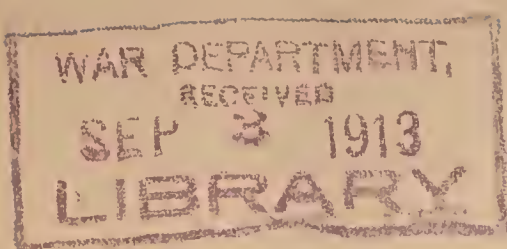
In every free country the citizen soldier must stand for the bulk of the military strength of the nation. It is from the mass of the citizens that in time of war the ranks of every army must be enlarged and filled up. Fortunate is that country which has a well-trained and well-disciplined force of citizens in reserve who are able to take their places in the ranks, not only with all the enthusiasm that patriotism and love of country inspires, but with the cool and intelligent courage that only comes with drill, with discipline and with knowledge of how to handle in a workmanlike manner the tools of war.

In France and Germany the practice of having

substantially all the young male citizens serve in the ranks for two or three years gives the nation great numbers of soldiers, who never cease to be citizens, and who in their term of military service never lose their hold upon the hopes and aspirations of life as citizens, and great numbers of citizens, who from their military training and experience are able to re-enter the ranks as experienced and well-drilled men at arms.

Our system of National Guards in the different states, by whatever name they may be called, dependent wholly upon voluntary enlistment and embracing but a very small proportion of our citizens available for military service, but feebly supplies the anticipatory needs of the nation.

There is no incompatibility between an appreciation of the necessity of preparation for war and love of peace. The cause of enduring peace between nations is better served by the creation of a public opinion that will lead to mutual disarmament, than by urging that a great and wealthy nation, the possessor of outlying possessions and boundless fertile acres that are the subject of desire by other countries, should be left in such an unarmed and helpless condition that it necessarily would be despoiled by a quick attack from a nation of less natural resources, but possessed of a much greater trained military and naval force. Let us not delude ourselves with the idea that the millennium has arrived because our hearts are full of charity toward our neighbor and hopes of peaceful intercourse with him. The large man who is unarmed is at the mercy of the smallest foe with weapons. One might as well pit the muscles of the professional pugilist against the automatic pistol in the hands of a



dwarf, as a great and wealthy nation with no army or navy against a well-disciplined and powerful force in the hands of a comparatively small nation. It may be true that numbers and wealth would in time retrieve disaster and prevent anything more than a temporary success from the inferior nation. But consider the suffering, the loss of life and the destruction of property that would be entailed before the end were reached. Nor should we lose sight of the great advantages to the youth of the country to be derived from a general military training. This is essentially a lawless country. There is not the deep-rooted respect for law in the abstract that should characterize a highly civilized people. A term of military service tends to curb the riotous self-will of thoughtless youth, to inculcate a respect for authority, to give the self-control that cannot be otherwise acquired than by discipline of some nature. The men of our country, we know, stand as ready to-day as in former times to give their substance and their lives in defence of the honor and the freedom of the nation. Those who are chosen as our rulers cannot be held free from censure, if they neglect to provide the methods and the means by which those willing patriots may be rendered competent to perform their duties, and by which citizen soldiership may be brought to the high standard it has reached in other lands. Fortunately the first steps have been recently taken to bring about the desired results. In 1911, Major General Leonard Wood, Chief of Staff of the Army of the United States, in his report to the Secretary of War, made the following general statement relative to reserves:

“In view of the small size of the Regular Army and the small number of instructed militia, it is imperatively necessary that steps should be taken to organize a reserve composed of men who have served in the Regular Army, militia, or Marine Corps, from which the regular and, if possible, the militia organizations can be promptly filled with instructed men to war strength, and from which the losses of organizations can be made up during the first stages of a protracted war.

* * *

“The first steps taken should be those necessary to authorize a reserve and the enlistment therein of available men of suitable age, sound physiques, who have had honorable service in the Army, Marine Corps, or Militia, and the modification of the present enlistment so as to provide three years with the colors and at least three in the reserve under the general conditions outlined. This is not only sound military policy but sound economy, as it insures a reasonable preparedness for war, interferes to the least extent with the civil and industrial pursuits of the individual; in fact, sends him back to civil life a more valuable industrial factor because of his better physique, his improved mental and physical discipline, and with a greater respect for the flag, law and order, and his superiors. It is in accord with our institutions and ideals, in that it gives us the trained citizen soldier with the minimum of time taken from his industrial career.”

During the present session of Congress, legis-

lation has been enacted providing for the establishment of a reserve.

General Wood says:

“This legislation marks a very great advance in our military policy—the greatest which has been made in years.”

But this is not all.

A circular has been issued from the office of the Chief of Staff, with this announcement:

“1. The Secretary of War has decided to hold two experimental military camps of instruction for students of educational institutions during the coming Summer vacation period. Should these camps prove a success, it is intended to hold them annually, one in each of the four sections of the country.

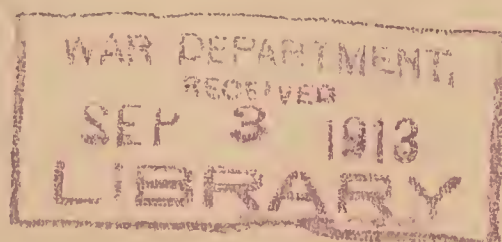
“2. The object of these camps is, primarily, to increase the present inadequate personnel of the trained military reserve of the United States by a class of men from whom, in time of a national emergency, a large proportion of the commissioned officers will probably be drawn, and upon whose military judgment at such a time the lives of many other men will in a measure depend.

“The object sought is not in any way one of military aggrandizement, but a means of meeting a vital need confronting a peaceful, unmilitary, though warlike nation to preserve that desired peace and prosperity by the best known precaution, viz.: a more thorough preparation and equipment to resist any effort to break such peace.”

Students over seventeen years of age and physi-

cally qualified are invited, in the Eastern parts of the United States, to volunteer to go into camp at Gettysburg National Park, Pennsylvania, from July 7 to August 15th. Those from the West will be provided for in a camp at the Presidio of Monterey, California, from July 1st to August 8th. The instruction will be primarily adapted to train these young men to become officers.

It remains for the members of our National Guard and of the Grand Army of the Republic to do their part, and see to it that their sons and grandsons take advantage of the opportunities now afforded by the Government to obtain adequate military instruction and to serve the colors, first in the camps of instruction, then in the ranks of the National Guards and militia, and then in the reserves. Peace calls for the sacrifices of patriotism as well as war. It is comparatively easier to enlist and march away to the strains of martial music and the plaudits of admiring crowds in time of actual war, than to drill and plod as matter of preparation in time of peace. But, "those also serve who stand and wait," and in his day and generation, the National Guardsman, the representative of citizen soldiership, gives all that is asked of him, if he devotes to the service of his country sufficient hours snatched from his youthful pleasures, to qualify himself for sterner duties, when war's horrid shape stalks through our land.



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